

Claricom Networks, LLC was originally a corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware on May 20, 1996 under the name "Clarity Telecom LD Network Services, Inc." and as a privately-held, wholly-owned subsidiary of Claricom Holdings, Inc.. On December 15, 1997, Claricom Telecom LD Network Services, Inc. formally changed its name to "Claricom Networks, Inc."

In February, 1999, Claricom Networks, Inc. experienced an indirect change in control as a result of the merger of its parent corporation, Claricom Holdings, Inc. with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Staples, Inc. Prior to the merger, Claricom Holdings, Inc. owned 100% of Claricom Networks, Inc.'s outstanding capital stock. Pursuant to the merger agreement between the parties, a Staples, Inc. subsidiary merged with and into Claricom Holdings, Inc. Claricom Holdings, Inc. was the surviving corporation of the merger. As a result of the merger, Staples, Inc. owned in excess of 90% of the shares of Claricom Holdings, Inc. Following the merger, Claricom Networks, Inc. later added the "d/b/a" name "Staples Communications - Networks" to its name, and became known as "Claricom Networks, Inc. d/b/a Staples Communications - Networks."

In Spring, 2001, Claricom Networks, Inc.'s parent corporation, Claricom Holdings, Inc. sold all of the ownership interests of Claricom Networks, Inc. held by Claricom Holdings, Inc. to Stacom Holdings, LLC. Stacom Holdings, LLC ("Stacom") is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware with its principal office located in California. Stacom is a holding company organized for the purpose of holding the ownership interests of Claricom Networks, Inc. Stacom is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Platinum Equity Holdings, LLC, ("Platinum"). Platinum is a Delaware limited liability company formed as a vehicle for the acquisition of companies and is the ultimate parent of Buyer. Platinum is recognized as one of the largest and fastest growing privately held information technology companies in the United States, with 16 technology driven subsidiaries and a workforce of 10,000 employees in more than 100 countries. Following the sale of Claricom Networks, Inc. to Stacom, Claricom Networks, Inc. became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Stacom and was converted to a limited liability company. Claricom Networks, Inc. is now known as "Claricom Networks, LLC."

Claricom Networks, LLC has more than sufficient financial resources and qualifications to resell local exchange telecommunications services within the State of Illinois. As evidence of its financial resources and qualifications, Claricom Networks, LLC has attached hereto its financial statements for the year 2001.

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